

For completeness, it is noted that claims readable on the elected species are claims 1-4, 10 and 13.

Finally, Applicants wish to note that the prior response of October 30, 2002 fully responded to the Examiner's outstanding Restriction Requirement, and that it was only through a misunderstanding, apparently at the USPTO with regard to Applicants' filed response of October 30, 2002, that the Examiner improperly believed that Applicants had not fully responded to the prior Restriction Requirement.

In any event, the present response is being filed in order to clarify the election previously made, and to help expedite prosecution in the matter of the instant application.

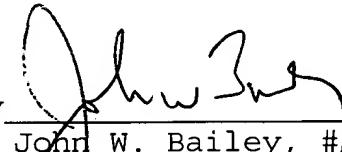
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
John W. Bailey, #32,881

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

JWB/end
2185-0497P

(Rev. 01/02/02)